Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

obtaining a scanned <u>handwritten</u> command mark written with a conventional writing implement onto a conventional medium<u>, wherein the conventional writing implement includes at least one of a pen and pencil and wherein the conventional medium includes at least one of a piece of paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, or cloth</u>; and

recognizing the scanned <u>handwritten</u> command mark as a command that may be executed by a processor, wherein the <u>scanned handwritten</u> command mark is recognized only if the <u>scanned handwritten</u> command mark is placed on a specified area of the conventional medium.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>scanned handwritten</u> command mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> 2, wherein recognizing comprises:

recognizing a pattern associated with the <u>scanned handwritten</u> command mark based on one of a statistical model, a neural network model, and a Hidden Markov model.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>3</u> 2, wherein recognizing further comprises:

applying heuristic techniques to enhance accuracy of the pattern recognition, the heuristic techniques being based on previous interpretations of a command mark.

5. (cancelled)

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6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining secondary command marks <u>hand</u>written on the conventional medium, wherein the <u>scanned</u> <u>handwritten</u> command mark is recognized before the secondary command marks are recognized as executable commands.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> 2, wherein the medium includes <u>pre-</u>printed text, wherein when the recognized command mark is executed, the <u>pre-</u>printed text is affected.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> 2, further comprising:

executing the recognized command in the processor.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> 2, further comprising:

storing the recognized command in memory.

10. (currently amended) A method comprising:

detecting stroke information associated with making a <u>handwritten</u> command mark with a conventional writing implement on a conventional medium<u>, wherein the conventional writing implement includes at least one of a pen and pencil and wherein the conventional medium includes at least one of a piece of paper, cardboard, plastic, or cloth</u>; and

recognizing the <u>handwritten</u> command mark as a command that may be executed

by a computer processor, wherein the <u>handwritten</u> command mark is recognized only if

the <u>handwritten</u> command mark is placed on a specified area of the conventional medium.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the <u>handwritten</u> command

mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 ~~11~~, wherein recognizing comprises:

recognizing a pattern associated with the stroke information based on one of a

statistical model, a neural network model, and a Hidden Markov model.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein recognizing further

comprises:

applying heuristic techniques to enhance accuracy of the pattern recognition, the

heuristic techniques being based on previous interpretations of a command mark.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising obtaining

secondary command marks written on the conventional medium, wherein the <u>handwritten</u>

command mark is recognized before the secondary command marks are recognized as

executable commands.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>10</u> ~~11~~, further comprising:

    executing the recognized command in the processor.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim <u>10</u> ~~11~~, further comprising:

    storing the recognized command in memory.

18. (currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions for recognizing a command mark <u>hand</u>written with a conventional writing implement onto a conventional medium, <u>wherein the conventional writing implement includes at least one of a pen and pencil and wherein the conventional medium includes at least one of a piece of paper, cardboard, plastic, metal or cloth,</u> the instructions causing a machine to:

    recognize the <u>hand</u>written command mark as a command that may be executed in a processor, wherein the <u>handwritten</u> command mark is recognized only if the <u>handwritten</u> command mark is written on a specific area of the <u>conventional</u> medium.

19. (currently amended) The article of claim 18, wherein the <u>handwritten</u> command mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

20. (currently amended) The article of claim <u>18</u> ~~19~~, wherein recognizing comprises recognizing a pattern associated with the <u>handwritten</u> command mark based on one of a statistical model, a neural network model, and a Hidden Markov model.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The article of claim 18 ~~19~~, wherein the <u>conventional</u> medium includes <u>pre-</u>printed text, wherein when the recognized <u>handwritten</u> command mark is executed, the <u>pre-</u>printed text is affected.

23. (currently amended) The article of claim 18 ~~19~~, wherein the instructions cause the machine to execute the recognized command.

24. (currently amended) The article of claim 18 ~~19~~, wherein the instructions cause the machine to store the recognized command in memory.

25. (currently amended) A~~n~~ command recognition apparatus ~~for recognizing a command mark written with a conventional writing instrument onto a conventional medium~~, comprising:

a memory that stores executable instructions; and

a processor that executes the instructions to:

recognize a scanned image of ~~the written~~ <u>a</u> command mark as a command that may be executed by a computer processor, <u>wherein the command mark is handwritten with at least one of a pen and pencil onto a conventional medium, the conventional medium including at least one of a piece of paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, or cloth,</u> wherein the command mark is recognized only if the command mark is written on a specific area of the medium.

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26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25 ~~21~~, wherein the command mark

comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25 ~~26~~, wherein the recognized command

is executed by the processor.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25 ~~26~~, wherein the processor executes

instructions to store the recognized command.

29. (currently amended) A~~n~~ command recognition apparatus ~~for recognizing a command~~

~~mark written with a conventional writing instrument onto a conventional medium~~,

comprising:

a memory that stores executable instructions;

a processor that executes the instructions to:

obtain handwritten stroke data that corresponds to ~~the~~ a ~~written~~ command

mark, and

recognize the handwritten stroke data as an executable command, wherein

the handwritten stroke data ~~command mark~~ is written onto a surface of a digital

ink capture pad and wherein the stroke data is recognized only if the ~~command~~

~~mark~~ stroke data is written on a specific area of the digital ink capturing device

~~medium~~.

30. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

a digital ink detecting device which detects the <u>handwritten stroke data as the</u> command mark ~~as stroke data~~.

31. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the notational mark comprises important phrases, dates and keywords.

32. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the operational mark comprises operations to be performed by the processor.

33. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the transformational mark comprises transformations to a specific section of pre-printed text included on the conventional medium.

34. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanned command mark comprises at least one of a handwritten alphabetic character and/or a glyph that represents non-verbal information.

35. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the conventional writing implement includes a digital ink capturing device attached to the conventional writing implement.